

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 29, 2003, the Examiner stated that this application contains claims directed to 66 patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, and required applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits and to list all of the claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. In response to this requirement, applicants elected the species of Fig. 1, on which claims 1-18, 20-32, 42, 81-85, 90-94 and 100-128 read.

However, withdrawal of the election of species requirement between the elected species of Fig. 1 and the species of Figs. 4a-4c, 5a-5d, 6a-6e, 7a-7g and 8a-8i is respectfully requested since these latter figures show various shapes and arrangements of the optical elements or deformities 8 and/or 18 of the elected species of Fig. 1. See, for example, page 11, lines 11-13 which state that the deformities 8 (of Fig. 1) may either be grooves 11 as schematically shown in Figs. 4a-4c or a pattern of individual optical deformities 12 each having a well defined shape as schematically shown in Figs. 5a-d. Also see page 12, lines 6-20 which states that the reflective surface 9 and light transmissive surface 10 of the individual optical deformities 12 may be of different shapes as shown in Figs. 5a-5d and 6a-6e. Further see page 14, lines 26-30 and page 15, lines 1-25 which state that the optical deformities in or on the top side of the transreflector 4 shown in Fig. 1 may be of the various shapes shown in Figs. 7a-7g and 8a-8e.

Also, withdrawal of the election of species requirement between the elected species of Fig. 1 and the species of Figs. 12-38 is respectfully requested since these

latter figures show various shapes of the optical deformities 76 on one or both sides of the backlight BL of Fig. 1.

Moreover, claims 1, 13, 42, 81, 84 and 90 are generic to the non-elected species of Fig. 1c on which dependent claims 86-89 read and the non-elected species of Fig. 2 on which dependent claims 19, 33-41 and 95-99 read. Also, claims 1, 13, 42 and 84 are generic to the non-elected species of Figs. 3 and 3a-3c on which claims 62-73 and 129-145 read and the non-elected species of Fig. 3c on which claim 74 reads. Accordingly, upon allowance of generic claims 1, 13, 42, 81, 84 and 90, consideration of non-elected claims 19, 33-41, 62-74, 86-89, 95-99 and 129-145 is also respectfully requested.

In the event that an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. If required, fees are enclosed for the extension of time and/or for the presentation of new and/or amended claims. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. GLOLP0113US).

Respectfully submitted,

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